AFFAIRS (SHRI 1. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) According to press reports, an organisation which calls itself the Islamic Group Almuhajarin had proposed to hold a rally of Islamic fundamentalist militants in London on September 8, 1996. The rally was cancelled after the British Home Office had issued a warning that anyone advocating social unrest or violence would be prosecuted.

(c) Does not arise.

Backlog of vacancies for Postmen in Gujarat

1284. SHRI SHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a balcklog of vacancies for Postmen in the State of Gujarat at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Postal department has conducted any examination for filling the vacant post of postmen in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNCATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) There are at present 2 Scheduled Castes and 17 Scheduled Tribes vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The examinatipns have been held on 14.4.1996, 21.4.1996 and 4.8.1996.

(e) These are likely to be filled by 31.1.1997.

Banned Organisations of Assam

1285. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have maintained any record or dossier to indicate total number of members registered with banned organisations of Assam viz. United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA);

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have laid down some criteria to ascertain willingness of members of banned organisation to surrender;

(d) whether Government have any record or dossier to indicate total number of members of banned organisation surrendered so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof? and if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government have taken any steps to rehabilitate the surrendered ones; and

(g) if so, the details thereof with amount spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIARS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a militant organisation has been banned by the government. Since this outfit is underground, its precise membership cannot be specified.

(c) The policy of the Government has been, on the one hand, to deal firmly with those indulging in violent activities and, on the other, to encourage them to joint the national mainstream. Within this framework, various Accords and Memoranda of underdstanding have been signed with a view to meeting the aspirations of the local people and ethnic groups. Many underground elements have, as a result of the adoption of the above policy and process, come overground and laid down their arms.

(d) and (e) yes. Sir, as per the available information 4993 ULFA had surrendered upto November, 1996.

(f) and (g) The State Govt, is implementing a Scheme for rehabilitation of ULFA militants who have